



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 28, 2022

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chris Benzing, Greg Padgham, Janice Palmer, Susan O'Neill, Matt Teffeau, Lindsay Thompson, Grayson Middleton, Scott Warner, Kelly Dudeck, Monique Snyder, Debbie Bowden, Alice Settle-Raskin, Kurt Fuchs, Diana Hsu, Tony Thakur, Kayleigh Leager, Susan Harrison, Kimberly Kratovil, Taylor Blades, Don Mulrine, Delegate Mike McKay, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Co-chairs Chris Benzing and Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 2:02 pm.
- II. Review of February 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Co-chair Lindsay Thompson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the 2/21/22 minutes. There were none. Co-Chair Thompson asked if there was any opposition. There was none. The 2/21/22 minutes were unanimously accepted.
- III. Session Updates: DLS had no recommended changes to the RMC budget.
 - a. Budget Hearings: Co-Chair Lindsay Thomson reported that DLS did not recommend any changes to the RMC budget.
 - b. Bill updates
 - c. Maryland Day: RMC staff stated that they are working on registration and logistics for the event that will take place on Friday, March 25, 2022 from 11:30am to 1:00pm at Lawyers Mall in downtown Annapolis.
- IV. 2022 Bill Tracking
 - a. HB250: Private Well Safety Act of 2022, Passed the House, First Reading in the Senate: Co-Chair Thompson stated that the Committee supported the House bill and asked if there was any opposition to supporting the bill in the Senate. There was none. The Committee approved to send a letter in support of the bill to the Senate. *Status – Send letter of support to Senate.*
 - b. HB1243: Public Health – Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program – First Reading Hrg 3/7. The Committee decided to place the bill on hold because the bill contains a budget mandate. *Status – Hold.*
 - c. SB791/HB1031: Natural Resources – Land Conservation – Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful), Senate Hrg 3/09; House Hrg 3/2. The Committee decided to place the bill on hold because the bill contains a budget mandate. *Status – Hold.*
 - d. SB986/HB1240: Education - Low Density Calculation – Mandated Funding. Co-chair stated that this requires. Mandated Funded. Beneficial to all school to all schools in rural areas. The Committee discussed placing the bill on hold until they learn if this is a county specific issue or statewide. *Status – Hold*

Hearing week of Feb 28-March 4

- SB651/HB960: Natural Resources – Forest Mitigation Banks and the Forest Conservation Fund – Alterations, Senate Hrg 3/1; House Hrg 3/2. The Committee

decided to punt the bill unless they learn from the forestry community that it should be supported. *Status - Monitor*

- SB876/HB1201: Water Pollution – Civil penalty Surcharge – Oyster Repletion – Senate Hrg 3/1; House Hrg 3/04. The Committee discussed the bill and how it creates a ideminty funds if oysters are harmed and cannot be harvested. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor*.
- HB876: Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment, House Hrg, 3/4. The Committee discussed the bill and they were waiting to learn were the funding was coming from to support the fund. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status: Monitor*
- HB1133 Oysters: Tributary – Scale Sanctuaries Hrg 3/2. The Committee decided that the bill was regionally specific and should be monitored. *Status – Monitor*.
- HB1217: Natural Resources – Oyster Inspection and Severance Taxes – Increase – Hrg 3/4. The Committee decided to remove the bill from the tracker. *Status - Remove from Tracker*.
- HB1290: Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration – 3/01 checking w MACo. The Committee discussed MACo supporting the bill with amendment and decided to support the bill if it crosses over to the Senate. *Status – Support*.

Hearing week of March 7-11

- SB716: Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding, Senate Hrg, 3/10. The Committee discussed the establishment of this program and the appropriate amount of \$35 million to the fund. The Committee decided to place the bill hold and asked for RMC staff to check with Senator Eckardt to learn more. *Status - Hold*
- SB795/HB1101: Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education – Funding – Senate Hrg 3/09; House Hrg 3/15. The Committee discussed the bill decided to monitor the bill. *Status: Monitor*
- SB799/HB1102: Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers – Funding – Senate Hrg 3/09; House Hrg 3/15. The Committee discussed the bill and decided to monitor it. *Status - Monitor*
- HB1298: Natural Resources – Hunting and Fishing Offenses – Expungement – Hrg 3/8. The Committee discussed the bill and decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor*.
- HB1311: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses (Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Lockbox Act of 2022) – Hrg 3/10. The Committee discussed the bill and decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor*.
- HB1313: Environment – Exception to Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Requirements - First Reading Hrg 3/9. The Committee decided that they did not want to get involved and decided to remove it from the bill tracker. *Status - Remove from Tracker*.
- HB1324: Transportation – Maryland Rail Authority – Establishment (Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2022) – Hrg 3/8. The Committee reviewed the bill and decided they needed more information. *Status – Hold*.
- HB1384: Economic Development – Industry 4.0 Technology Grant Program (Maryland Manufacturing Innovation Act of 2022) – Hrg 3/09. The Committee discussed the bill and decided to monitor it unless other information becomes available suggesting it should eb supported. *Status – Monitor*.

V. Other

- HB1075/SB674: Natural Lakes – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund – Funding and Sunset – Alterations – House Hrg 3/2; Senate Hrg 3/2. The Committee reviewed the bill and decided to monitor the bill. *Status - Monitor*.

- HB1086/SB419: Opioid Restitution Fund – Appropriation of Settlement Funds and Grant Program. House Hrg 2/22; Senate Favorable Report and the Committee felt that it may not need to take a position on this bill. The Committee decided to discuss at the next meeting. Status – On Hold.

VI. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2022, 2pm-3pm, Zoom Teleconference